

# SIREN

New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • July 2005

George E. Pataki  
Governor

Randy A. Daniels  
Secretary of State

James A. Burns  
State Fire Administrator

## Welcome to e-SIREN

We offer you a somewhat diverse selection of news and reviews for July. Although we are already into summer, we felt it appropriate to include the Heat Stress Index in this issue. There is a brief description of the Heat Stress Index and what it means. Also, the Heat Stress Index Chart for your use. Let's watch our people and anybody else assisting us at an emergency. Don't forget you may have Fire Police, Sheriff Deputies, State Troopers, local police, highway crews, EMS personnel, and a host of other agencies. Take care of everyone!

Introducing New York Regional Response Team (NYRRT-1) and OFPC's newest members! These highly trained teams of dogs and humans will shortly be available for specialized search functions. The teams have just returned from 3 weeks of intensive training. There will be more details and information as their training progresses.

Women in the Fire Service at the Academy of Fire Science is coming in September. Please spread the word to all your members that will be interested.

This month there is a brief description of the Special Services Bureau. Special Services is one of the newer bureaus within OFPC and one of the most diverse.

Take a look at one of the resources available from the Library at the Fire Academy. One of the best Fire and Emergency Service research resources in New York State.

Firefighters and emergency responders need to be aware of a provision in the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. Now an International Code adopted last year. One provision of the Fire Prevention Code is the use of the NFPA 704 marking system. Here is a brief description of what to look for and what it means to firefighters.

As always, we are looking for your input to **SIREN**. Send us your ideas, suggestions, pictures, articles, and comments. Send it all to [fire@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:fire@dos.state.ny.us). Be sure to put **SIREN** in the subject line for proper routing.

See you next month!

Train often, Train hard...and Stay Safe!

## Rural Fire Assistance Program

The Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) program provides cost-share grants for equipment, training, and fire prevention and mitigation activities for those rural/volunteer fire departments (RFDs) that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires in, on, or near United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lands.

For additional eligibility requirements and contact phone numbers:

<http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/>



The Department of the Interior receives an appropriated budget each year for a rural fire assistance (RFA) grant program.

# Information Services from the OFPC Library

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Can't find what you need in your department's resources or on the Internet? Call us!

Largest collection of fire/EMS print and nonprint materials (videos, CDs, DVDs) available for loan throughout NY State! We pay for UPS shipping to you; you pay for the return.

Friendly and knowledgeable staff at your service!  
Open generally 8am-8pm Tuesday-Thursday and most Saturday and Monday evenings

Go to <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/library.html> for details about our services, link to searchable online catalog (which includes links to full-text documents on the Internet). Download our video lists and a career information pathfinder.

We can provide passwords into any of the NOVEL databases on the list at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/gate/remoteb.htm>. Full- or part-time State employees

(such as SFIs) can get access to all of the listed resources; we can do searches/downloads for all others

Located at the State Fire Academy in Montour Falls, the collection focuses on Fire & EMS topics including fireground tactics, firefighter safety, prehospital care, fire investigation, hazardous materials, building inspection and homeland security

Thanks to donations from the Faculty-Student Association, most of the Academy is now covered by a wireless Internet network. Stop by the Library if you need help logging on, or would like to borrow an adapter for your laptop

Contact us at 607-535-7136 ext.605 or email [drobinso@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:drobinso@dos.state.ny.us)

## OFPC & New York State Regional Response Team (NYRRT-1) add K-9 units

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***New additions to New York State's  
Urban/Technical Search & Rescue  
capabilities.***

***Look for more details as their  
training progresses.***



Left to Right: Greg Gould, OFPC, with Kura a golden/Lab mix. Jason Geary, Cohoes FD, with Marzi a yellow lab. Bill Simmes, OFPC, with Bonni a yellow lab. John Stewart, Saratoga Springs FD, with Lani a shepard/malamar mix.

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# 4th Annual Fire Service Women of NYS Training Weekend September 23 - 25

Amy Tryon, a career firefighter/paramedic in Redmond, Washington, and an Olympic equestrian who won a bronze medal at the 2004 games in Athens, will be the keynote speaker at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Service Women of New York State Training Weekend. It is being held at the NYS Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls, September 23-25, 2005.

Over 200 volunteer and career female firefighters from throughout the State are expected to participate in hands-on training, classroom instruction and demonstrations. The faculty is comprised of top instructors from New York and around the country who are recruited for their expertise. Among those teaching at the Academy for the first time is Battalion Chief Katherine Ridenhour of the Aurora, Colorado Fire Department. Chief Ridenhour is a well known presenter at the major national fire conferences.

The weekend officially opens at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23. However, pre-conference classes are being offered on Thursday and Friday. The courses that earn OFPC training credit are: Medium Structural Collapse Operations: Tools; Basic Trench Collapse Concepts; Decontamination; and Domestic Preparedness: Radiological Emergencies. These courses are taught by OFPC staff and earn a certificate.

The other Friday classes include: (Hands-On) High Angle Rapelling, Forcible Entry, and Surface Ice Rescue; (Classroom) The ABC's of ICS and Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO-National Safety Council): Fire and Ambulance. CEVO students who score 80% or better on the written exam earn a NSC certificate.

Many new topics are on the Saturday and Sunday program, in addition to some of the standard hands-on training exercises. They are: Low Angle Rescue, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Drownproofing Turnout Gear, Fun with Fittings, Strip Mall Fires: Strategic & Tactical Considerations, Fire Scenarios: Taking Command of the Big One, Surviving a Terrorist Attack: Is it Training, Luck or Some of Both?, Building a Safety Net: Support Systems for Firefighters & Their Families, Diversity in the Fire Service, Void Search & Rescue Techniques, Public Safety Diving and Female Frustrations in the Fire Service.

The opportunity to network at social events is one of the highlights of the weekend. A new, exciting Friday night outing, sponsored by Nextel Corporation, is in the planning stages. A banquet, live auction and dance will be held Saturday evening at the Academy.

OFPC is the only State training entity that offers a weekend designed specifically for women in the fire service as part of its annual training schedule. The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) and the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs provide significant financial support for the conference.

The complete package of information, including registration forms, can be found at:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/pdfs/women.pdf>



Photos courtesy of:  
Mary Hanlon, NYS Association of Fire Chiefs



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## *What's the Sign Telling You?*

### How the NFPA 704 System Helps the Fire Service. . .

By: Tom Szczepaniak

Fire Protection Specialist

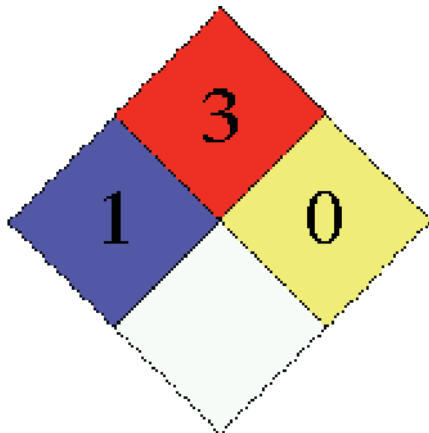
Hazardous Materials/WMD Bureau

The NY State Fire code section 2703.5 requires visible hazard identification, as specified in NFPA 704, for the specific material contained shall be placed on stationary containers and above ground tanks and at the entrances to locations where hazardous materials are stored, dispensed, used or handled in quantities specified in the code. This is mandatory unless otherwise exempted by the code enforcement official (CEO).

The NFPA 704 system uses a double coded system to identify hazards. The first code is color and the second is numerical. The 704 system is a diamond shape sign, composed of four smaller diamonds. The left corner is colored blue for health hazards, the top corner is red for fire hazards, the right corner is yellow for reactivity hazards and the bottom corner is white for special hazards.

The health, fire and reactivity sections will also display a number from 0 to 4. This signals the degree of the hazard for each hazard section. A section with a 0 is minimal hazard. Sections showing a 1 would be classified as a slight hazard. A 2 signals a moderate hazard. A section with a 3 would be considered a serious hazard. A 4 is the highest hazard and signals extreme hazard for the section it represents.

The white or special hazards section will not have a number assigned to it but rather a word or symbol describing the hazard. For example OXY appearing in the white section signals the presence of an oxidizer. COR would signal a corrosive.



Fire personnel must be aware that different materials will have different classifications for all four sections of the diamond. For example a storage tank containing Anhydrous Ammonia should display a 704 diamond with a 3 in the blue section, a 1 in the red section, a 0 in the yellow section and the white section blank. Without knowing what the product is, arriving fire fighters could quickly determine that there was a serious health hazard, a slight flammability hazard, a minimal reactivity hazard and no special hazards involved with the product in the storage tank. Conversely, if Gasoline was stored in that tank the 704 diamond would display a 1 in the blue section, 3 in the red section, 0 in the yellow section and once again the white section would be blank. Again, the responding fire fighters could quickly determine that there was slight health hazard, a serious fire hazard, a minimal reactivity hazard and no special hazards present with the product stored in that container.

Fire personnel need to be familiar with the 704 system and its classification system. A 704 diamond won't tell you the name of the product; it will tell you the hazards and severity posed by materials stored in a building.

Be alert for 704 placards as you travel through your district. Make note of what you see and compare the information to what you have on file from other sources, such as 209U forms. If you don't have the information you need, you may want to visit the owner/operator of the facility and find out what is inside before an incident occurs.



Typical location for 704 sign

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## More Suspicious Activities

The departments and agencies comprising the Emergency Services Sector continue to experience suspicious activities at increasing frequency. Impostors carrying falsified credentials have appeared throughout the United States attempting to gain entry into emergency facilities and access their sensitive information. In all cases the impersonators quickly flee when denied.

Recently, an emergency medical services (EMS) organization contacted their local law enforcement to report suspicious electronic mail. The e-mail requested that the rescue squad host the message sender for an internship to study and learn about American response and rescue operations. Using the information provided in the e-mail, the FBI found that the individual matching that name, age, and place of origin had been refused entrance into the country, and is unwelcome based on his suspected affiliations.

Therefore, emergency organizations should be alert for and cautious about similar inquiries or activities. Those intending to harm our nation and its people will try very creative ways to exploit existing vulnerabilities for their terrorist plans and actions.

The Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) again encourages emergency sector departments and agencies to report suspicious inquiries or activities to the National Infrastructure Coordination Center (NICC) in addition to local law enforcement. The NICC can be contacted by voice at 202-282-9201, e-mail at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov), or by facsimile at 703-487-3570.

Taken from the EMR-ISAC CIP (Critical Infrastructure Protection) INFOGRAM.

## OFPC Special Services Bureau

OFPC's Special Services Bureau has responsibility for a host of programs within OFPC. The unique aspects of this Bureau are the diversity of its programs. Major program areas include:

- Oversight and delivery of all OFPC sponsored technical rescue related training conducted both at residential facilities and at regional settings statewide. Currently, Special Services Bureau provides over 24 different rescue related training programs.
- Coordination and support of the Capital District Urban/Technical Search and Rescue Regional Response Team (NYRRT-1). This unique team consists of emergency responders from the Capital District that are specially trained to assist fire departments at the scenes of technical rescue incidents. The team is based on the FEMA USAR System and is available for statewide response.
- Oversight of the NYS Fire Reporting System. This system is part of the National Fire Incident Reporting

System and collects incident information reported from fire departments and provides data on fire related trends and problems.

- Coordinates OFPC Publication Production. Provides administrative support and coordination to all Bureaus within OFPC to facilitate publication, production, and distribution.
- OFPC Web Page – Provides design and coordination for the Office's web page
- Develop and produce the monthly OFPC electronic newsletter - SIREN
- Oversight of the administrative aspects of the NYS Fire Training System. Coordinates administrative matters related to training provided by all Bureaus within OFPC.
- Serves as OFPC's liaison to the NYS Disaster Preparedness Commission
- Provides staff support to the NYS Emergency Services Council

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# Heat Stress Index

## If the Heat Stress Index is:

### 80-90 Caution ...

Fatigue possible with prolonged exposure and physical activity.

### 90-105 Extreme Caution ...

Sunstroke and heat exhaustion are possible with prolonged exposure and physical activity.

### 106-130 Danger!

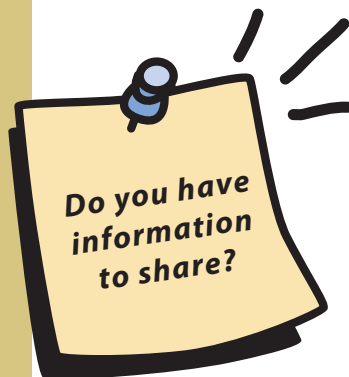
Sunstroke and heat exhaustion likely. Heatstroke possible with prolonged exposure and physical activity.

### Over 130 Extreme Danger!

Heatstroke or sunstroke imminent.

		RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)																				
T		0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
E	120	107	111	116	123	130																
M	115	103	107	111	115	120	127	135	143	151												
P	110	102	105	108	112	117	123	130	137	143	150											
E	105	95	97	100	102	105	109	113	118	123	129	135	142	149								
R	100	91	93	95	97	99	101	104	107	110	115	120	126	132	138	144						
A	95	87	88	90	91	93	94	96	98	101	104	107	110	114	119	124	130	136				
T	90	83	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	93	95	96	98	100	108	106	109	113	117	122		
U	85	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	91	91	93	95	97	99	102	105	108
R	80	73	74	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	81	81	83	83	86	86	86	84	88	89	91
E	75	69	69	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78	78	79	79	80
(F)	70	64	64	65	65	66	66	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	70	70	71	71	71	71	72

## Send Us an Article



Contributions to *SIREN* are always welcome. Timely articles about your fire department or county that are informative and of interest to New York's fire service are preferred. Small articles and bits of information are just as valuable as larger articles. Photos submissions are encouraged.

All submissions become the property of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Photo credits will be given where appropriate or requested.

Contact us by e-mail at [fire@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:fire@dos.state.ny.us) subject: *SIREN*.

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